

Studies in the Genus *Mecas* (Coleop.).

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On June 15, 1921, Mr. Vance S. Brown, Lumberman of the Lassen National Forest, collected for me, from *Artemisia tridentata*, a single specimen of a *Mecas*. The following summer I captured by beating the same shrub, which is the common sage brush, about twenty specimens of the same beetle. In Horn's table¹ to the genus *Mecas* this species runs to *inornata* (Say), but after a careful study of the literature of the genus I am convinced that a change is necessary, involving the *Saperda concolor* of LeConte. In 1824 Thomas Say described² the species *inornata* as a *Saperda* and distinctly states that it shows no trace of thoracic callosities. LeConte, in 1853³, described *Saperda concolor*, but his description does not differentiate it from *inornata*, except in the shape of the elytral termination. In looking over a series of *concolor*, I have noted specimens in which the apex of the elytra have a slight break in the outline which might excuse one for calling it sub-acute. Horn, in the above cited table, was, as far as I can find, the first one to place *inornata* in the genus *Mecas*. Le Conte himself says, in the same paper in which he described *concolor* (speaking of *inornata*), "This is possibly the male of *S. concolor*." It would seem therefore that *concolor* is a synonym of *inornata* and that the species of *Mecas* that has been called *inornata* is undescribed. I offer the following description and name.

Mecas bicallosa, new species.

Body black, shining throughout, which, seen through the white vestiture, gives to the species a dark lead color; length 10-13 mm. Head moderately convex on occiput and front, with coarse deep punctures which average less than the diameter of a puncture apart; each of these large punctures with a long sub-erect seta clouded with black which is darker on the front; surface between the large punctures with numerous finer ones each bearing a recumbent white hair, shorter and finer than the setae and nearly concealing the surface, these hairs are

¹Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. VII, 1878, p. 44.

²Jour. Acad. N. S. Phil. III, 1824, p. 407.

³Jour. Acad. N. S. Phil. Ser. 2, II, 1852, p. 155.

shorter on the front. Antennae about three-fourths the length of the body; basal joint similar in punctuation and vestiture to head, third and fourth joints with white hairs at base becoming black distally, giving these points an annulated appearance and with fewer of the seta bearing punctures; the remaining joints black, not annulated.

Prothorax one-fifth wider than long, slightly narrower in front, moderately arcuate on the sides, more so in the males as a rule but variable in a series; punctuation and vestiture similar to that of the head, except that the sub-erect setae are cinereous in color; on either side of the median line at about the middle is a well marked glabrous callosity, there is also a tendency for a narrow glabrous condition along the basal half of the median line, very marked in some specimens, absent in others, apparently without regard to sex.

Elytra distinctly wider at base than thorax, with punctuation and vestiture the same as head and prothorax except that the coarse punctures have a roughly lineal arrangement and become wider apart toward the apical area.

Under surface of the body and legs clothed with recumbent white hairs and setae. Tarsal claws with a well marked tooth at about the middle which is slightly larger in the males. Fifth ventral segment of the female with a longitudinal suture like median line. The male lacks this line but has a strongly marked, roundly outlined, triangular depression. The males are as a rule less robust than the females and shorter.

Described from a series of twenty specimens taken at the base of Antelope mountain in Lassen County, California, on *Artemisia tridentata*. Type, a ♀ and allotype ♂ in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences.

New Species of *Ernestia* and *Mericia* (Dipt. : Tachinidae).*

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Since Dr. J. D. Tothill's revision of the genus *Ernestia*¹, considerable additional material has been accumulated by the Canadian National Collection and this is found to contain four well-marked new species which are described in the following pages.

* Contribution from the Division of Systematic Entomology, Entomological Branch, Dept. of Agric., Ottawa.

¹Can. Ent., LIII, 1922.